

# JOHNSON'S DEATH DUE TO OPERATION

Minnesota Governor  
a Unique Figure.

HIS RISE A RAPID ONE.

Was Proud of Fact That He  
Began Life as Poor Boy.

SOME pessimists say that opportunity for the American boy has passed, but the career of the late John A. Johnson, governor of Minnesota, does not prove it. When Johnson was nominated for governor in 1904, to lead a forlorn hope, as everybody supposed, his political opponents published broadcast the statement that his father had died a drunkard in a poorhouse and that his mother had taken in washing. The report was investigated and proved true, but it did not have the effect that its circulators had hoped. The American manhood of Minnesota, the same kind of American manhood that had elected the rail splitter, Lincoln, president, arose for Johnson. He was elected, although the remainder of his ticket was snowed under by nearly 100,000 majority. Not only so, but he has been elected twice since, the only Democrat chosen in his strongly Republican state. In 1900 Johnson was the most prominent candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination second to Bryan.

Governor Johnson died as the result of the fourth operation for appendicitis, or, more correctly, the adhesions resulting from former operations for appendicitis, the first of which occurred fifteen years ago. He was born in Minnesota in 1861, the son of poor Swedish immigrants.

The last notable utterance of Governor Johnson was an appeal for the west to stand together and look out for its own interests, which President Taft regarded of sufficient importance to refer to in his Boston address, made at the very time that Johnson was preparing to undergo the operation which resulted in his death.

Nominated For Governor.

In 1904 the Democrats of Minnesota nominated for governor a country editor, the St. Peter Herald man. John Johnson was a pretty good country editor, too, but there were some 700 other men in Minnesota. St. Peter is a small town, and the Herald is a small paper. But it is not necessarily true that a small paper in a small town had a small man at the head of it. Plenty of instances to the contrary might be cited, but Johnson's is enough. For fifteen years Editor Johnson had run the editorial end of the Herald, while his partner, Henry Essler, had run the mechanical end. Both took a hand at the business end. Johnson became secretary and then president of the state editorial association. So the other editors knew him and they liked him.

Johnson had served one term as a state senator, and some of the politicians knew him and liked him too. But he was defeated for re-election, being a Democrat in a Republican district, and when his party placed him at the head of the state ticket he was plain John Johnson, country editor.

Minnesota's normal Republican majority is between 60,000 and 70,000. The Democrats had little or no expectation of electing Johnson. One reason they picked him for the candidacy was that he was a Swede and would get the Scandinavian vote, which in Minnesota is a considerable factor. They hoped he, at any rate, would make a decent showing, and most of them would have been satisfied with that. But Johnson, having accepted the nomination, made a systematic campaign. His opponent, State Auditor Dunn, was not altogether popular in his own party. Dunn's unpopularity helped Johnson, against whose record nobody had anything to say. Johnson's popularity increased as Dunn's decreased. Something had to be done for Dunn.

Ten days before election some boomerang thrower in Minnesota printed and distributed a circular setting forth that Candidate Johnson's father had been a drunkard and had died in the poorhouse and that his mother had taken in washing. You cannot find in Minnesota today the thrower of this political boomerang. Most likely he is and was then an inmate of the asylum for the insane.

Some supporters of Johnson, too much excited to know a golden opportunity when they met it face to face, were perturbed by this circular and urged the candidate to make a strong denial of the statements.

"I can't," was Johnson's quiet reply.

Story Quickly Went the Rounds.

The reason he couldn't was that what the circular said about his parents was true. A St. Paul newspaper which supported him sent a staff correspondent posthaste to the little town of St. Peter. The staff man investigated the immediate antecedents of John Johnson. The reportorial assignment would have delighted any good newspaper man. It is not often that a reporter strikes such "human interest" color. The story of John Johnson of St. Peter, as published in the St. Paul paper, quickly went the rounds of the Minnesota press; also it went the rounds of the corner groceries and the drug stores and the country hotel offices, where governors are made and presidents are prepared from the raw material.

The St. Paul reporter discovered that Gustaf Johnson, a blacksmith, had emigrated from Sweden about fifty years ago, settling in St. Peter. He had been a heavy drinker in his native land and came to America in the hope

that he might reform. He did reform for a few years. He married Caroline Haden, a Swedish girl, also an immigrant. She was utterly alone in America. The blacksmith installed her in a two room house near St. Peter. For a few years the brawny arms of Gustaf Johnson earned a living for the wife and the little ones who came, John being the first baby, born in 1861. Then recurred an attack of the old malady, the old disease, which in the system of the village blacksmith demanded alcohol. The blacksmith became a drunkard. Like many others of his unfortunate class, he went "from bad to worse." Finally the local authorities placed him in the poorhouse, where after some years he died.

Mrs. Johnson was left with six children to support. John was only twelve years old, but he arose to the occasion. He insisted upon quitting school so that he might help. He got a job in a grocery store. A grocer's boy has no snap as a job, but some of them have snap as individuals. John Johnson—they probably called him Johnny then—got \$10 a month, which he turned over to his mother. He found time to deliver laundry washed and ironed by his mother, his splendid, heroic mother, and also to deliver papers on the carrier's route—the town paper. After two years of this grocer's boy life he got a job in the drug store at a slightly higher rate of pay. From this time on his mother, still taking in washing, John supported the family. In the years following three of the little sisters died, and John Johnson was in debt to the undertaker. The boy studied hard while working in the drug store. The little public library was in the same block. He read many books from the library, being chiefly interested in history. Meanwhile he studied pharmacy, too, and eventually he became a registered pharmacist.

Real Journalist With a Real Job.

After nine years in the drug store John Johnson became a journalist. In the cities a journalist is sometimes described as a newspaper man out of a job. In St. Peter John Johnson was a real journalist with a real job, paying for a half interest in the Herald, for which friends who believed in him had put up the money. Johnson had paid off the undertaker. He had bought in the two room family homestead, which was about to be sold for taxes, and he had added other rooms and improvements.

So this was the story discovered by the St. Paul reporter. It was so magnificently true that American Minnesota arose gloriously to the occasion. President Roosevelt carried the always Republican state of Minnesota by a majority of 161,402—a hundred thousand above the normal majority. But, hold! John Albert Johnson, Democrat, was elected governor by a majority of 7,800. Not a very large majority that, and yet he turned \$4,400 votes to get it.

The country editor closed down his desk at St. Peter, probably saying to Henry Essler: "I'll be back in two years. Try to keep the subscribers in line, and don't let the ads get away from you. Keep the jobwork going." Then he went to work at his new job in St. Paul, his office being in Minnesota's new state capitol building. Did Johnson as governor of a great state pose as a sickly sentimental friend of "the common people?" Not a bit of it—not he. Johnson made no pretense of being ultra democratic. He wore good clothes, the prevailing style, and cut just as dignified a figure at a gubernatorial reception as he had cut in the editorial sanctum at St. Peter. He had sense enough to adapt himself to his environment.

He Made Good.

Johnson also had the moral and mental backbone to make him Johnny-on-the-spot with his new job. He had had no experience as an editor when he took hold of the St. Peter Herald. But he made good. He made good also as governor of Minnesota. Do you want proof? Then read the election returns of 1908. Normally the Republican candidate should have won by about 70,000 majority. As a matter of fact, Johnson won by 72,000 majority. Somebody asked how he did it.

"I only tried to make good," replied Johnson.

No boomerang was thrown in the second campaign. If Johnson had not made good in his two years' term as governor he would have been sent back to the St. Peter Herald office. The washerwoman circular promulgated by the unidentified asylum inmate made him governor, but as governor he made good himself. Those years of struggle, of self-effacement, of mother love and brotherly devotion in St. Peter gave him the stamina to make good. When some one asked him what he considered the most important result of his administration as governor, he replied:

"Law enforcement. We have brought about conditions by which the state officers obey the law themselves and enforce it."

Make Tax Dodgers Wince.

But Governor Johnson did not stop at enforcement of the laws on the statute books. By his influence he brought about the enactment of new laws to meet conditions. One thing he did was to have the legislature give him a board of tax equalizers. Johnson appointed three of the best men in the state. Under the law this board had only advisory powers. The governor used his discretion. The steel trust has immense mines in northern Minnesota. These mines were taxed on a valuation of \$38,000,000 when Johnson took office. Now they are taxed on a valuation of \$104,000,000, and the poor taxpayer feels better. The electric railways uniting St. Paul and Minneapolis are paying twice as much taxes as they paid before the advent of Johnson. The tax dodgers began wincing when Johnson became governor.

Some persons take pleasure in comparing John Johnson with Abraham Lincoln. This is due to the fact that both men had immediate ancestors of the kind that, as a rule, do not pro-

duce society swells. Johnson seemed to have much of the homely honesty of Lincoln and more dignity than "Honest Abe." Whatever he might have turned out to be in the future, we must go back to the original thesis and assert that if Johnson had been a candidate for head shell of Fifth avenue's Four Hundred that lunatic's circular would have defeated him. But he was running merely for the governorship of the plain, common, sensible, intelligent people of an American commonwealth.

## BASEBALL SCORES

Standing of the Clubs

| NATIONAL LEAGUE |     |    |      |      |
|-----------------|-----|----|------|------|
|                 | W.  | L. | P.C. | 1908 |
| Pittsburgh      | 100 | 36 | .735 | 614  |
| Chicago         | 92  | 45 | .672 | 619  |
| New York        | 90  | 52 | .632 | 649  |
| Cincinnati      | 69  | 68 | .504 | 474  |
| Philadelphia    | 68  | 70 | .493 | 544  |
| St. Louis       | 47  | 86 | .353 | 341  |
| Brooklyn        | 47  | 88 | .343 | 343  |
| Boston          | 39  | 96 | .289 | 413  |

| AMERICAN LEAGUE |    |     |      |      |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|------|
|                 | W. | L.  | P.C. | 1908 |
| Detroit         | 89 | 50  | .641 | 578  |
| Philadelphia    | 87 | 52  | .626 | 476  |
| Boston          | 81 | 59  | .578 | 474  |
| Chicago         | 70 | 69  | .504 | 564  |
| Cleveland       | 68 | 73  | .483 | 571  |
| New York        | 65 | 73  | .471 | 538  |
| St. Louis       | 59 | 80  | .425 | 551  |
| Washington      | 38 | 101 | .273 | 440  |

| EASTERN LEAGUE |      |       |      |  |
|----------------|------|-------|------|--|
|                | Won. | Lost. | P.C. |  |
| Rochester      | 86   | 60    | .589 |  |
| Newark         | 87   | 63    | .580 |  |
| Providence     | 78   | 68    | .534 |  |
| Toronto        | 76   | 68    | .528 |  |
| Buffalo        | 69   | 76    | .476 |  |
| Baltimore      | 64   | 78    | .451 |  |
| Montreal       | 62   | 79    | .439 |  |
| Jersey City    | 59   | 83    | .410 |  |

| AMERICAN ASSOCIATION |      |       |      |  |
|----------------------|------|-------|------|--|
|                      | Won. | Lost. | P.C. |  |
| Milwaukee            | 87   | 72    | .547 |  |
| Minneapolis          | 86   | 73    | .541 |  |
| Louisville           | 85   | 73    | .541 |  |
| St. Paul             | 77   | 77    | .500 |  |
| Indianapolis         | 79   | 81    | .493 |  |
| Toledo               | 74   | 83    | .477 |  |
| Columbus             | 74   | 84    | .469 |  |
| Kansas City          | 68   | 88    | .435 |  |

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

The Pirates cantered in over Brooklyn yesterday and incidentally scored the hundredth victory for the National League pennant, which is surely destined for the Snodgrass City. Continuing the Titanic struggle, unfinished on Sunday, New York failed to hold Chicago, while Philadelphia shut out St. Louis. The results:

Chicago 3, New York 2.  
Pittsburgh 12, Brooklyn 3.  
Philadelphia 3, St. Louis 0.

Games Today

Boston at Pittsburgh.  
New York at Cincinnati.  
Philadelphia at Cincinnati.  
Brooklyn at Chicago.

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

The Highlanders climbed nearer fifth place by another victory over Cleveland yesterday. The Athletics scored the hundredth victory for the American League pennant, which is surely destined for the Snodgrass City. Continuing the Titanic struggle, unfinished on Sunday, New York failed to hold Chicago, while St. Louis administered a beating to Washington. The results:

New York 3, Cleveland 4.  
Philadelphia 4, Detroit 3.  
Boston 6, Chicago 5.  
St. Louis 3, Washington 2.

Games Today

Cleveland at Boston.  
Chicago at New York.  
St. Louis at Philadelphia.  
Detroit at Washington.

## LIVE BASE BALL TIPS

The Tigers' lead at the present time is anything but comfortable.

Yesterday's victory was the 100th for Pittsburgh.

The Athletics have the series easily on the Tigers, winning 14 out of the 22 games.

The total attendance for the four games just played in Philadelphia between the Athletics and Tigers is given out as 117,208.

Jack Barry, the Meriden youth who has been filling in quite well at short stop for the Athletics, had his ankle spiked yesterday afternoon by Cobb as the latter was sliding into second base. Four stitches were taken in the wound, the player being out of the game for the rest of the season. No demonstration was made against Cobb as the spiking was purely accidental.

Jeems O'Rourke, the veteran of thirty-six years on the ball field, was second in batting this season in the Connecticut league. Can't you see this old classic clouting the ball twenty-five years ago when at his best? He once had the distinction of leading the National league at the bat—Boston Globe.

Manager Jim got into one game, made a hit and thus broke into the select class.

The directors of the Washington American club are in session today, and it looks as if Joe Cantillon's head will fall. Cantillon's contract expires at the end of the present season. There have been a number of motions for the all important leadership of the Senators, but as yet there has been nothing doing.

President Heydler of the National league is in Pittsburgh today arranging for the world's series. While the pennant is undecided, the National commission is going ahead with its plans. The program will not be known until the race is definitely determined.

The American league closes two weeks from yesterday, with the same sort of thrilling finish that has characterized this league since its beginning. Detroit has three games with Washington, four in New York, three at Boston, one at Chicago, and one with Chicago in Detroit. The Athletics will have all their remaining games at home, three with St. Louis, four with Cleveland, three with Chicago, and two with Washington.

By winning yesterday's contest, the Chicago Cubs broke even in their series with the Giants, eleven for each.

Chicago fans are panning the Cubs just now in a merciless manner. They say St. Charles and have seen their best days and must be replaced. They are scoring Owner Murphy for not getting Catcher Kling at any cost and say that Chance has lost his grip

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as a team manager. The Cubs will meet the White Sox in a post season series and Comiskey's players will have an army of followers. If the Cubs should lose this series Chicago's interest in National league affairs would probably receive a hard jolt.

President Heydler of the National league is receiving praise all over the major league circuits for backing up his umpires. Mr. Heydler's determination to have clean ball has earned the support of fair minded fans in all of the big cities and umpires inclined to score him are being subjected to severe criticism.

After two weeks arguing the Clerks and Foremen of the Singer Manufacturing Co. got together Saturday afternoon at St. Joseph field to decide which is the better team, and also for a side bet of \$10. It was a walk over for the pencil pushers, their heavy batting being very effective, only 35 hits being made off Pitchers Winton and Hart. Brennan, O'Brien and Hart did the heaviest clouting for the Clerks. The final score was 33-15.

## BATTING RECORDS IN BIG LEAGUES

The National league batting records were badly scaled down during the last week, and as the result only men are now over the .300 mark with five of that number so close to the line that a couple of hitless days would spoil their standing. Wagner not only the undisputed leader, but is so far ahead that there seems no show for anyone to get near him. Those better than .280 follow:

| Player            | G.  | A.B. | H.  | Pct. |
|-------------------|-----|------|-----|------|
| Wagner, Pitts.    | 124 | 443  | 152 | .343 |
| Mitchell, Cin.    | 124 | 450  | 139 | .309 |
| Bates, Bos.       | 123 | 421  | 122 | .292 |
| Hofman, Chic.     | 124 | 454  | 137 | .302 |
| Seymour, N. Y.    | 54  | 203  | 61  | .300 |
| Bransfield, Phil. | 118 | 453  | 135 | .298 |
| Konetchy, St. L.  | 120 | 459  | 144 | .294 |
| Jordan, B'klyn.   | 74  | 249  | 73  | .297 |
| Clarke, Pitts.    | 133 | 485  | 142 | .291 |
| Egan, Cin.        | 113 | 425  | 124 | .291 |
| Zimmerman, Chic.  | 129 | 431  | 126 | .293 |
| Doyle, N. Y.      | 118 | 469  | 135 | .289 |
| Hulswitt, St. L.  | 69  | 261  | 75  | .287 |
| Bridwell, N. Y.   | 126 | 403  | 115 | .283 |
| Miller, Pitts.    | 72  | 253  | 71  | .281 |
| Beaumont, Bos.    | 105 | 385  | 109 | .283 |
| Hummel, B'klyn.   | 128 | 479  | 135 | .282 |
| McCormick, N. Y.  | 85  | 331  | 93  | .281 |
| Meysers, N. Y.    | 123 | 424  | 121 | .283 |
| Snodgrass, N. Y.  | 15  | 50   | 14  | .280 |
| Mathewson, N. Y.  | 88  | 323  | 82  | .280 |

The great Cobb-Collins contest still continues as the star feature of the American league averages, with Cobb still a few points in the lead, but so close that one game would reverse the ranks of the two leaders. Those better than .280 follow:

| Player            | G.  | A.B. | H.  | Pct. |
|-------------------|-----|------|-----|------|
| Cobb, Detroit     | 140 | 514  | 190 | .370 |
| Collins, A.       | 134 | 501  | 183 | .365 |
| Slattery, Wash.   | 20  | 78   | 28  | .357 |
| Lajoie, Cleve.    | 112 | 411  | 146 | .355 |
| Gardner, Bos.     | 20  | 37   | 13  | .324 |
| Crawford, Detroit | 139 | 522  | 163 | .312 |
| Becker, Wash.     | 127 | 482  | 149 | .309 |
| Carriagan, Bos.   | 83  | 246  | 74  | .301 |
| Lord, Bos.        | 120 | 459  | 136 | .295 |
| Gessler, B-W.     | 113 | 404  | 119 | .291 |
| Bridwell, N. Y.   | 84  | 283  | 82  | .291 |
| Laporte, N. Y.    | 90  | 311  | 91  | .293 |
| Griggs, St. L.    | 92  | 311  | 91  | .293 |
| Cris, St. L.      | 36  | 148  | 44  | .297 |
| Heuser, Bos.      | 127 | 492  | 146 | .296 |
| Stahl, Bos.       | 116 | 394  | 114 | .289 |
| Baker, A.         | 131 | 478  | 136 | .284 |
| Dougherty, Chi.   | 125 | 438  | 124 | .283 |
| D. Jones, Detroit | 57  | 153  | 43  | .281 |
| Orth, N. Y.       | 22  | 82   | 9   | .281 |
| Stone, St. L.     | 81  | 303  | 85  | .281 |

## THOSE CLEVER CLOWNS

LOOK LIKE CONERS  
The Clowns defeated the St. Charles team, late champions of the Park City league, Sunday afternoon at the Fats. In what was the first game of their series for the Junior championship of the city. This score again shows what the South End youngsters

## BELEATED B. H. S. FOOTBALL GAME

The male students at the Bridgeport High school are all the time springing something new, their latest being the play off of the inter-class baseball series which should have been accomplished last June. The contest has been arranged to be torn apart on Thursday afternoon of this week, at Seaside Park. Two games of the series for the school championship have been played, the Class of 1910 winning from 1909 and 1911 winning from 1912. This left 1910 and 1911 the honor of fighting it out for the championship. Yesterday the captains of the contesting clubs met and arranged for the contest. Because the members of the winning team may wear their class numerals on their caps, there is much at stake. As a little side issue a collection will be taken up, the netting being dedicated to the use of the High School Athletic Association treasury which is very easily in need of repairs.

## "Dummy" Logan is Yale's Acting Captain

New Haven, Conn., Sept. 21.—Walter Seth Logan of Washington, Conn., called by his friends "Dummy Logan," is the captain of the Yale football team which he underwent last week. It was stated here yesterday that Coy would probably not be able to play until the middle of October. A good representation reported at the field yesterday for the first practice. The most promising looking freshman was Young, a man who weighs about 270 pounds, taking away from Cooney the title of heaviest man in the University.

## BOXING

Jeffries sends word from Carlshad that he will leave there "some time in October." In other words he is taking his time about returning to this country and is evidently waiting to find out how Ketchel shapes up with Johnson. It is generally believed that if the Johnson-Ketchel bout goes the limit Jeffries will sign a contract to appear all winter in vaudeville and will postpone his proposed mill with the big negro until some time next summer. In that event Johnson may be forced into a fight with Langford, and if the latter should win Jeffries could retire permanently with a fortune made in a very easy way.

Philadelphia, Sept. 21.—Harry Mansfield had the better of Kyle Whitney at the Washington Sporting Club last night. Whitney looked like a winner in the opening round, but his speed did not last after the second session. In the third round Mansfield sent an assortment of punches to the negro's head and body, while the latter held on and did very little work in the clinches.



## Exit the Black Man?

The negro question is gradually being removed—not by the white man's plans, but by the negro himself. Disease, bred of filth, ignorance, drugs and drunkenness, is wiping out the color line in this country as by a giant sponge. Fifty years ago the negro was the healthiest man in America. Today he is the weakest human being on earth. Judge Harris Dickson has put forty years of close study and painstaking observation into a series of articles dealing with every phase of the negro problem in this country. He paints another picture in the dark drama in all its tragic and economic significance. In

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